

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 EAE-00 CCO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

ACDA-07 OMB-01 DHA-02 /095 W
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O 191018Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8948

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

CINCUNC SEOUL, KS IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: ROK MEDIA REACTION TO DMZ INCIDENT

REF: (A) STATE 206131 (DTG 190517Z AUG 76), (B) SEOUL
6422 (DTG 190556Z AUG 76)

1. ON AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 19, ALL NEWSPAPERS CONTINUED
EXTENSIVE FRONTPAGE COVERAGE OF NK DMZ KILLING OF
US MILITARY OFFICERS, WITH EDITORIALS AND COMMENTS.
PRESS FRONTPAGED WIRE EXCERPTS PRES FORD STATEMENT AND
SECSTATE KISSINGER PRESS CONFERENCE ON INCIDENT. PRESS
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FRONTPAGED OP TOKYO STORY CITING JAPANESE PRESS COMMENTS

THAT NK DMZ KILLING OF US MILITARY OFFICERS
AIMED AT UPCOMING UNGA. PRESS ALSO REPORTED EIGHTH
US ARMY AUTHORITY AIRED SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT THROUGH
AFKN THAT ALL USFK PERSONNEL ON LEAVE WERE TO RETURN TO
DUTY AND THAT ROKG MOFA BELIEVED NK PROVOCATION WAS
INTENTIONAL.

2. FONOFF ANALYZED DMZ INCIDENT AS FOLLOWS:

A) NORTH KOREA HAS FAILED TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR ITS
HARD-LINE RESOLUTION FROM THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE.
THEREFORE, NORTH KOREA INTENDED TO PROVOKE A WAR CRISIS
IN KOREA BY THIS INTENTIONAL PROVOCATION.

B) NK WANTS TO LEAD US PUBLIC OPINION TO CALL FOR
WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS FROM KOREA, AND

C) NK WANTS TO TURN THE ATTENTION OF THE NK
PEOPLE FROM THEIR COMPLICATED DOMESTIC AFFAIRS TO FOREIGN
AFFAIRS. ALSO, NK WANTS TO ACHIEVE A FAVORABLE POSITION
IN THE UN THROUGH FABRICATION SUCH AS THEIR CURRENT ONE
TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PANMUNJOM INCIDENT WAS PROVOKED
BY US FORCES.

3. OFFICIAL SEOUL SHINMUN FRONTPAGED OP NY STORY THAT
UN DIPLOMATS AND OBSERVERS VIEWED DMZ INCIDENT AS A
SIGNAL FOR ANOTHER KOREAN WAR...SEMI OFFICIAL
KYUNGHYANG SHINMUN INSIDE PAGED FULL TEXT OF DOS
STATEMENT ON INCIDENT.

4. SEMI OFFICIAL KYUNGHYANG SHINMUN FRONTPAGED COMMENTS
BY PARTY SPOKESMAN. YU-JONG-HOI SPOKESMAN LEE CALLED INCIDENT A
"BRUTAL AND MEAN ACT...AIMED AT US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION."
"WE HAVE TO PROVE THIS TIME THAT UNDUE PROVOCATION SHALL
BE PUNISHED." COMMENT OF DRP AND NDP SPOKESMEN HAS BEEN REPORTED
IN REFTEL (B).

5. KYUNGHYANG SHINMUN, SHINA ILBO AND CHUNG-ANG ILBO
CARRIED EDITORIALS WHICH STRONGLY CONDEMNED NORTH KOREANS'
VICIOUS MURDERS OF TWO AMERICAN OFFICERS AND STRONGLY
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WARNED NK THAT SUCH PROVOCATION WOULD LEAD TO
ITS SELF-DESTRUCTION. YU-JONG-HOI FLOOR LEADER YI YONG-KUN
SAID THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
AND NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE WOULD BE CONVENED
EXTRAORDINARILY BECAUSE DMZ INCIDENT WAS CONSIDERED
"MORE SERIOUS THAN PUEBLO INCIDENT."

6. INDIVIDUAL EDITORIAL COMMENT:

A) MASS-CIRCULATION CHUNG-ANG ILBO SAID: "NK HAS BEEN INSISTING AT NAC AND IN UN RESOLUTION ON KOREA THAT WAR IS AT HAND IN KOREA; HOWEVER, THERE IS NO SUCH EVIDENCE. THEREFORE, NK HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO MANIPULATE A WAR ATMOSPHERE IN KOREA....WE SHOULD BE ALERT TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH NK PROVOCATIONS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF UN DEBATE ON KOREA...AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE GREATLY SHOCKED BY THIS INCIDENT...PRESIDENT FORD AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS EXPRESSED FIRM DETERMINATION.... WE BELIEVE IT HAS AWAKENED AMERICAN PEOPLE AND ENTIRE FREE WORLD TO NK'S MILITANT NATURE..."

B) SEMI-OFFICIAL KYONG-HYANG SHINMUN: "IT WAS A CUNNING ACT AIMED AT JUSTIFYING NK DEMAND TO PULL OUT GI'S FROM KOREA THROUGH FALSE PROPAGANDA THAT THE PROVOCATION WAS STARTED BY US FORCES."

C) INDEPENDENT SHINA ILBO: "IT HAS HEIGHTENED THE ALERTNESS OF THE WORLD AGAINST NK MACHINATIONS."
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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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